

**Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee
(SSTMD AC) Meeting Summary
October 16, 2008**

Items 1, 2, 3 – Introductions, Approval of Minutes, Chair’s Comments: Members and guests introduced themselves. Minutes from the September Meeting were approved with minor changes.

Item 4 – IOS Briefing: Gary Stith, Silver Spring Regional Services Center, updated the committee on the progress of the Interim Operating Site (IOS). **Mr. Stith** said he is surprised at the relatively low volume of people seen around the Metro Station.

A few locations are being monitored closely. One of these areas is along Wayne Avenue, where pedestrians tend to jay walk. Since the ‘jug handle’ is now closed to traffic, vehicles are tending to go faster down Wayne than they did before. Barriers will be put in place for pedestrians’ safety.

Generally speaking, the project is going very well thus far. There have been minimal complaints, and some questions about how long the area will be blocked off, but no specific concerns have been brought up.

Mr. Stith does not anticipate many funding problems for the IOS despite the county’s current budget shortfall. All funding for the project has already been allocated. Snow removal has not been funded, but typically the county has sought additional appropriations for snow removal, based on the need.

Tom Collins asked about bike lockers. While there are places to lock up their bikes legally in the jug handle, many riders will not want to go down there just to lock up their bikes. On the other hand, some riders have already begun locking their bikes to lamp posts and other places, which could impede sidewalk traffic. **Mr. Stith** said that there was some talk about putting bikes in the garage, but acknowledged that more bike racks would be a good idea.

Item 5 – SSTMD Budget Priorities: **Mr. Polk** distributed the budget priorities document that the committee submitted to the County Executive for FY09, and asked committee members to carefully consider recommended budget priorities for FY10 for the November meeting:

- Funding for Transit Operations, including the VanGo service, is expected to be tight, but the committee would like to see expanded VanGo service hours.
- Ultimately, the goal for Ride On is to have all their buses be Natural Gas or Electric Hybrids, and the committee supports that position.
- The committee still would like to see more buses per hour on all bus lines through Silver Spring.
- Super FareShare should remain a budget priority.
- Pedestrian Safety remains a high priority for the county. **Mr. Segerman** believes that bicycle safety is at least as important and should be included.

- **Sgt. Tom Harmon** suggested that the County Executive is very results-oriented, yet it seems that many projects within the county do not run that way. There is always a good deal of talk, but not enough action to get things changed.
- To improve the financial status of the PLD, the committee recommended last year to increase parking rates, which has been done.

Item 6 – Purple Line: **Mr. Polk** said there will be a number of public hearings in the area, and this is the last major study before the project moves forward. **Mr. Stith** reminded the committee that there are three levels of light rail service available, and in the end, the key to the whole project will be funding. The County Executive, Park and Planning and other stakeholder will make recommendations, but ultimately the decision will be made by the Governor.

Mr. Segerman stated that the extra stop in Silver Spring would be beneficial for travelers who would only travel for a short distance. **Mr. Polk** stated that the original purpose of the Purple Line was for longer distance travel and to take traffic off the Beltway between Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties. However, some of the recent studies show that most travelers would only use it for short distance travel. **Mr. Polk** suggested that this be revisited at a later date.

Item 7 – Updates: **Sgt. Harmon** briefed the committee on police activities. He distributed a map showing high accident areas, and showed that many citations have been written in those areas. Demands on patrol teams are currently high. Robberies are up, car thefts are up, burglaries are up, gang activity is up, and a lot of that is happening in the Central Business District. It is still a safe area, but crime rates are up, and that does put greater demands on the police force in this area.

Sgt. Harmon said that there was a fatal vehicle crash back in August. There were also two pedestrian fatalities in August. Alcohol likely played a role in one of them, and the other was likely pedestrian error.

Jim Carlson distributed a bulletin from WMATA indicating that Metrocheks will no longer be sold after November 15th. March 31st will be the last day that employees will be able to exchange unused Metrocheks at Metro-operated sales facilities. SmartBenefits vouchers will be issued, and can be exchanged for fares on VRE, MARC, and MTA buses. There are still some technological issues with SmarTrip cards that are being worked out; but ultimately, the plan is to have all the fares, transfers, benefits, etc. go through the SmarTrip card.

Mr. Carlson provided some ridership stats, and noted some significant increases since last year.

Mr. Carlson mentioned that the Bailout Bill in Congress included provisions for \$20 per month for bike commuting benefits, and the Bike Sharing proposal is still being pursued.

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Attendance Sheet
October 16, 2008

Voting Members (12)			
Name	Affiliation	Present	Absent
Chamber Members (3)			
Samantha Mazo	Linowes and Blocher LLP		X
James S. Polk, Chairman	Technology Service Corporation	X	
Tom Collins	Atlantech Online	X	
Citizens Advisory Board Members (3)			
Edward Furgol	Kemp Mill, Four Corners, East SS	X	
Charles Segerman, Vice Chairman	North & West Sector Plan Area	X	
Andy Wexler	CBD Resident	X	
TMD Employers less than 50 employees (3)			
Julian Leidman	Bonanza Coin		X
Suvita Melehy	Melehy & Associates		X
Cathy Wilde	Solid Waste Assoc of North America		X
TMD Employers with 50 or more employees (3)			
G. Michael Price	Discovery Communications	X	
Robin Goudy	Social & Scientific Systems	X	
Vacant			
Non-Voting Members (4)			
Sandra Brecher, DOT Transit Services	DOT Director or Designee		X
Chuck Kines	M-NCPPC		X
Sergeant Thomas Harmon	Montgomery County Police	X	
Staff			
Terrie O'Steen	DOT, Commuter Services	X	
David Kantor	DOT, Commuter Services		X
Jim Carlson	DOT, Commuter Services	X	
Guests			
Gary Stith	SS Regional Services Center	X	
Mel Tull	SS Regional Services Center	X	